

Bahaman endemics.—The Bahama Islands have been found to possess an endemic flora of some 185 species, or rather more than fourteen per cent of the entire plant population. There is but a single endemic genus, however, *Neobracea*, belonging to the Apocynaceae. A careful analysis of the situation by TAYLOR¹⁸ shows that the distribution of these forms does not coincide with the "age and area" hypothesis of WILLIS, nor do the distribution and growth forms of the endemic differ materially from those of the non-endemic species. Moreover, the comparatively youthful land surface seems to preclude the idea of any considerable number of relic species. TAYLOR is thus forced to the conclusion that the endemics are due largely to the rather direct influence of the somewhat peculiar set of external factors that include sterile and often saline soil, deficient rainfall, strong trade winds varied by violent hurricanes, and possibly certain other factors.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Action of lichens on glass.—Doubt has sometimes been cast on the capacity of lichens to disintegrate the harder rocks. In this connection Miss MELLOR¹⁹ reports the occurrence of twenty-two forms growing on the glass of church windows in France. The plants not only etched the glass, but produced pits up to 0.5 cm. in diameter and as much as 1.6 mm. deep, in the process chipping off fine fragments which became imbedded in their tissues. The action is explained as a purely mechanical result of the solution in rain water of the CO₂ excreted as a result of the respiration of the lichens, and is very slow, but the conclusion is drawn that plants able to attack glass in this way would have a similar disorganizing effect on rocks. In fact, one of the species found growing on glass was also found growing on slate, in which situation fine chips of slate were incorporated in the thallus.—G. W. MARTIN.

Zoölogisch-Botanische Gesellschaft.—This society is one of the oldest and most famous of the natural science societies of Europe. In order to continue its existence, it is compelled to sell some of its herbarium collections. In view of this need we publish the following notice received from Vienna:

"For sale—a valuable collection of mosses containing more than 1000 European species, including about 12,000 fine specimens collected by famous bryologists, as SCHIMPER, WILSON, DE NOTARIS, LINDBERG, JURATZKA, MOLENDO, LORENTZ, BREIDLER, many of them being types. The collection also includes several hundred members of old rare exsiccatae, as, for example, RABENHORST, *Bryotheca Europaea*. Offers should be sent to the Zoölogisch-Botanische Gesellschaft, III/3, Mechelgasse 2, Vienna, Austria."

¹⁸ TAYLOR, NORMAN, Endemism in the Bahama flora. *Ann. Botany* 35:523-532. 1921.

¹⁹ MELLOR, ETHEL, Les lichens vitricoles et leur action mécanique sur less vitraux d'église. *Comptes Rend. Acad. Sci.* 173:1106-1108. 1921.